

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Extension Service  
Washington 25, D. C.

Narrative for Use With Special Filmstrip Entitled  
"1948 NATIONAL 4-H CLUB CAMP"

ANNOUNCER: (1) We are 2 of the 192 boys and girls who attended the National 4-H Club encampment in the Nation's Capital June 16 to 23 this past summer. Ours was a visit chock-full of new inspiration. . .new thrills. . .big moments. . .and warm new friendships. It's about all a boy or girl could ask for. . .this exciting week seeing Washington. We recorded our week on film. . .and we recorded it in our hearts. So we'd like all of you to share with us this review.

And where did they come from. . .these 4-H Club members who traveled to Washington? From virtually every State in the Union. (2) From the grain-covered plains. . .(3) the tall corn country. . .(4) the romantic ranch country of the West. . .(5) New England's wooded hills, rich with maple syrup. . .and (6) the South's cotton lands.

And suddenly. . .after long trips and short ones. . .(7) there was our first view of Washington. Our camp for the week was a hotel. A little different from most camps. . .but they took good care of us there. . .even changed the bed clothes every day.

(8) The first day some of us had to wait in the lobby until we got a room. (9) Then we had to register. This is part of the Kentucky delegation--the feminine part--with their leader. (10) We soon made ourselves at home. . .got a few things put away. And then we found out (11) that busses were to be our very good friends. We went everywhere in them. (12) Meals were cafeteria style. . .at a regular Government cafeteria. (13) One of the first things we did was to say good-bye to the 4-H'ers on their way to Europe. Here they are lined up with the 789 pounds of food packages we 4-H Club members sent to Europe, in front. We like this symbolism of our interest in the rest of the world. (14) We met the Puerto Rican delegation. . .four of them with three leaders. (15) And the foreign students, too. . .four from South America, one from Mexico, and one from Israel. They were students here studying agriculture. (16) We spent a good bit of time getting our pictures taken. . .(17) or taking pictures ourselves. Here we are at the experimental farm near Washington. (18) We certainly enjoyed the dance in the beautiful Hall of Adventures in the United States Chamber of Commerce. and here (19) happy day, the ice cream man came along. And need we add what a good deal this was.

Yes, this was the good life (20). . .meeting new people. . . .getting new ideas. . .(21) shoving back that horizon that used to be not much broader. . .when we were younger. . .than the creek on the north side of the house and the south pasture at the other end of our place. We saw the Pan American building . . .and (22) the National Art Gallery--two places that helped shove back those horizons.

But our story's only begun. People do come first. . .everywhere . . .but there were other things we saw. . .(23). . .buildings . . .monuments. . .historic spots. They weren't live things. . .but they stood for something very live. . .people who acted and fought and toiled and triumphed for the country we live in. Yes, most of the landmarks in Washington stand for that. There's the White House. That was first on our tour. (24)

DELEGATE NO. 1: We were only in the White House a short time. But I would like to have seen more of the interior. You know what impressed me though? It was the great number of people who were also viewing the great Executive Mansion that day. As I passed through the beautiful rooms and halls where many of our great leaders have lived. . .I got the feeling of being. . .and wanting to be. . .a better American citizen.

ANNOUNCER: (25) No, the White House itself wasn't a living thing. But it stands for something, even as the President himself is a symbol. He's not just a man who happens to be President. . .but he represents the executive power of our Government. . .and he serves because we, the people, set up the office and elected him to fill it. No, he's not a boss but a servant. . .servant of the people. So we "sort of" felt at home as we had our pictures taken on the White House lawn that day.

But we had another trip the same afternoon. . .to the Agricultural Research Center at Beltsville, Md. (26) Here was an institution built on the faith that we Americans can do even better farming and better homemaking. . .and that research holds the answers.

DELEGATE NO. 2: I certainly was interested in our visit to the 12-thousand-acre U.S.D.A. experimental farm at Beltsville. On this tour the girls saw the home economics work and the boys saw the work being done with dairy cattle. (27) We saw the experiment demonstrating the value of proven sires. . .and now they are seeing what effects the crossing of various breeds will have in producing a superior strain of dairy animals. In one problem they are crossing the Sindhi cattle from India with the American Jersey to develop a heat- and insect-resistant breed for the Southern States. Here's one of the Louisiana boys at the Beltsville farm.

ANNOUNCER: (28) Well. . .here's a familiar building.

DELEGATE NO. 3: This is the Capitol, of course. And visiting the Capitol building was the high light of our stay in Washington. (29) At least that's my opinion. It was a real thrill to walk through the corridors and rooms used by the statesmen of our Nation. I stood there thinking. . ."This is my Capitol, the Capitol of the United States of America." (30) Earlier, at the Senate Office Building, we saw the room in which the Agricultural Committee works. Senator Aiken explained the movement of a bill through this committee. I now have a much better understanding of how this and other Congressional committees function. Others in our group visited the House Agricultural Committee.

ANNOUNCER: But now we cross the street. . .(31) to what some call the most beautiful building in the world. But. . .the Supreme Court is more concerned about other things than beauty.

DELEGATE NO. 4: You know, as we went up the steps of the Supreme Court we saw a marble statue of Liberty enthroned and guarded by order and authority. Once through the doors. . .we seemed to be guarded by that massive marble structure. In the courtroom, we liked the simplicity there. (32) We didn't get any pictures inside but here are some we took just outside this beautiful building. On leaving the Supreme Court I feel it left us all with a tremendous challenge as 4-H Club members to find out more about the Supreme Court and its judges. Yes, I wanted to learn more about it when I get back home. And one more thing. . .I feel more sure we can expect justice when such a high tribunal is set up by the people and for the people. . .and enthroned in such an impressive structure.

ANNOUNCER: It's almost across the street again to the Library of Congress. . .(33) It's different in architecture from the Supreme Court. . .older. But inside it's beautiful in its own right.

DELEGATE NO. 5: We saw some interesting things at the Library of Congress. In school, you know, it was interesting to study about the Magna Charta, the Declaration of Independence, and such documents which molded our history. (34) But seeing some of these documents gave these events a reality we never had in our classrooms. Although we are all proud of our heritage anyway. . .I believe a visit to the Library of Congress makes us appreciate more the efforts of the great men to whom we owe our democratic way of life.

ANNOUNCER: (35) And here is the Lincoln Memorial.

DELEGATE NO. 6: When I first sighted the Lincoln Memorial. . .I was greatly impressed by the magnificent simplicity of the Memorial.

As we left the busses, walked up the steps, the statue of Lincoln inside became more lifelike and detailed. . .and all the things we had read and heard about this great man became

more alive.. On the sides of the figure were carved two of the most famous of Lincoln's public addresses. . .The Gettysburg speech and the second Inaugural address.

ANNOUNCER: Well, we didn't do much resting those days. Sunday afternoon found us piling out of our busses over across the Potomac River. (36) It was the Arlington National Cemetery. . .not just a burial place but a living memorial to those who fought to keep our Nation strong. Yes, you had to stop and think here.

DELEGATE NO. 7: Yes, I was very much impressed at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I think that it symbolizes the way that America cares for those who lost their lives for their country. I was also impressed . . . by the way the soldiers honored the dead by the perpetual guard maintained at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the orderly manner in which they performed.

(37) This is a picture of the 4-H boy and girl who laid our 4-H Club wreath at the Tomb Sunday. It shows we are not forgetting.

ANNOUNCER: Yes, America might have been just the Swanee River to us before. . .or the Brooklyn Bridge. . .or the best beef cattle in the world. . .or the tallest corn. . .or a patriotic song. . .or the flag we used to salute at school. (38) But boys don't go overseas and give their lives for these. . .not for tall corn or big buildings. . .or even flags made out of cotton bunting. . .not when it might have seemed more comfortable just to stay at home and let things take their course in those trouble spots across the waters. So. . .we did a lot of thinking that afternoon about what we've fought for in our American wars. . .and we figured it wasn't alone for things or for people. They aren't always worth fighting for. But we give precious lives for certain ideas. . .good ideas that don't perish with new generations.

(39) Before we came back to town we stopped at the Custis-Lee Mansion.

DELEGATE NO. 8: I know that each and every one of you were just as impressed as I was by the beauty of the Custis-Lee Mansion. (40) The splendor of the state dining room with its beautiful silver and the crystal chandeliers. Here two of our Montana delegates are looking at the floral centerpiece. And the state drawing room. . .beautiful with mantels of marble. And the bedrooms with the tall poster beds impressed me very much.

ANNOUNCER: Here's another memorial. (41) Yes, the Jefferson Memorial. Funny thing, Washington--Jefferson--Lincoln. . .sons of the soil were they. . .just like us. And Jefferson especially. We were reminded again that Jefferson made an important contribution to agriculture, among his many other gifts to future generations. (42) The girl shown here is a Maryland delegate. . .and her companion is from Minnesota.

DELEGATE NO. 9: Yes, we Americans are finding out more about Jefferson these days. . .how forthrightly he held to the proposition that men are equal in the eyes of God. . .that they must be equal in the eyes of the law. And that quotation around the interior of the monument. . .that's one for your memory. . ."I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man."

(43) Here's a picture of Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brannan congratulating us at our citizenship ceremony at the Jefferson Memorial.

ANNOUNCER: But I almost forgot one trip you made to Mount Vernon (44). . .on the Potomac.

DELEGATE NO. 10: Good thing you didn't forget. An exciting boat trip took us down the historic Potomac to one of the most beautiful homes I've ever seen. I'm glad our trip ended with the home of someone. Home's the important thing about great men like Washington. . .it helps you know then. (45) We couldn't wait to get home to tell about our trip. That's what we came for, you know. To go back home to fields and open country like this. . .better informed . . .better prepared. . .well, to be better Americans.

ANNOUNCER: Of course. And you will be. . .better Americans. You've got all the tools. (46) Most of them you had before you even came to Washington. . .those jewels of youth, good health, a democratic education. You had these when you came. You had ambition too.

(46) You had something a little special. Yours is a farm background. And you can be thankful for this heritage. You've grown up closer to soil and growing things than any other of the Nation's youth. And you know firsthand the friendliness. . .the thrifty wisdom. . .the straightforward integrity of hard work. . .the independence and the ingenuity that's so much a part of rural life. . .and the operation of a successful farm.

(47) And you have something you share with every other American boy and girl. . .citizenship in a country governed by its own people and so based on free principles that allow for progress and change. . .the only way we can rid ourselves of old evils and useless traditions . . . and build a Nation that fulfills our highest ideals.

